

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /089 W

----- 127347

R 021236Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 377

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBSSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, VN

SUBJ: RAJARATNAM COMMENTS ON VIETNAMESE VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: A) SINGAPORE 3108 B) SINGAPORE 3230 C) SINGAPORE 3232

1. ADDING TO SINGAPORE FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM'S RECENT COMMENTS ON SOUTHEAST ASIA (REFS B AND C), HE GAVE BRIEF BUT FRANK-SPOKEN INTERVIEW DURING HIS BANGKOK VISIT WHICH APPEARED JUNE 30 IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER THE NATION, ONE OF THE CO-SPONSORS OF RECENT ASIAN BUSINESS BRIEFING. IN IT, HE REFERRED TO DRV VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN'S JULY VISIT TO SINGAPORE. RAJARATNAM SAID THAT GOS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IT WOULD GAIN IN HAVING A PERMANENT VIETNAMESE MISSION ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS IN NO HURRY TO HAVE A VIETNAMESE EMBASSY, HAVING DONE WITHOUT IT FOR SO LONG. HE ALSO SAID THE GOS SEES NO POINT IN ALLOWING VIET-NAM TO HAVE A MISSION IN SINGAPORE IF IT IS JUST GOING TO CHURN OUT ANTI-ASEAN PROPAGANDA, ADDING THAT VIET-NAM NEEDS THE ASEAN COUNTRIES MORE THAN VICE VERSA.

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2. SINGAPORE EMBOFF WHO ACCOMPANIED RAJARATNAM DURING HIS BANGKOK STAY SAID THAT THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS WERE ACCURATE REFLECTION OF HIS VIEWS. SOURCE NOTED THAT SINGAPOREANS ARE NOT REALLY CERTAIN WHY PHAN HIEN IS COMING TO SINGAPORE AND WILL NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE PRESSURED BY HIM. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE DIVISIVE TACTIC OF VISITING SOME BUT NOT ALL ASEAN MEMBERS IS ONE OF WHICH GOS DOES NOT APPROVE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
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